

BUDGET PCs

INTRODUCTION

When buying an inexpensive PC, more and more people are choosing a notebook computer. Before rushing out to buy one, though, it's worth remembering that the traditional desktop PC still has many advantages.

Desktop PCs are far more powerful than notebooks. Even the slowest PC in this group outperforms the fastest notebook in the £600 notebook Labs test on page 68. They have more storage space, too: every PC here can store at least twice as much as the best of the notebooks. Desktop PCs are far better for playing games, with powerful graphics cards that can be upgraded in the future. Desktop PCs also last longer. Almost every component inside can be upgraded to keep you computing for years, and if the display breaks down it can easily be replaced with a new one.

This month, we've tested six complete PC systems that have all these advantages, but which cost just £600 including VAT. We'll help you pick a great PC at a bargain price.

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You don't have to compromise when buying a cheap PC, and £599 can get you a real bargain. We test six budget desktop PCs that promise value for money without the deal breakers

£599 PCs

Choosing a...
Budget PC

Although you can expect to get a great PC for £599 including VAT, it's hard to find one that will excel in every area. This makes it particularly important to work out what you want to do with your new PC, so you can pick one that's suitable.

HARD LABOUR

If you want to edit video files, work with large digital images or RAW photo files, run many applications at once or do any other demanding task, you should look for a PC that performs well in our Windows application benchmarks. Every PC here has a dual-core processor and at least 1GB of memory, so none will have difficulty with everyday tasks such as word processing, playing music or accessing the internet. The fastest, such as those made by PC Nextday and Mesh, will charge through even tricky tasks such as recoding video files to burn to DVD.

A PC that's quick in Windows applications won't necessarily be good for playing 3D games, though. Although it's important to have a powerful processor and enough memory, the speed at which games will run depends largely on the graphics card. To test each PC, we ran several demanding game tests on each and recorded the speed at which they run. Eclipse's Fusion

is easily the fastest computer here when running games, with Mesh's Elite Duo the slowest.

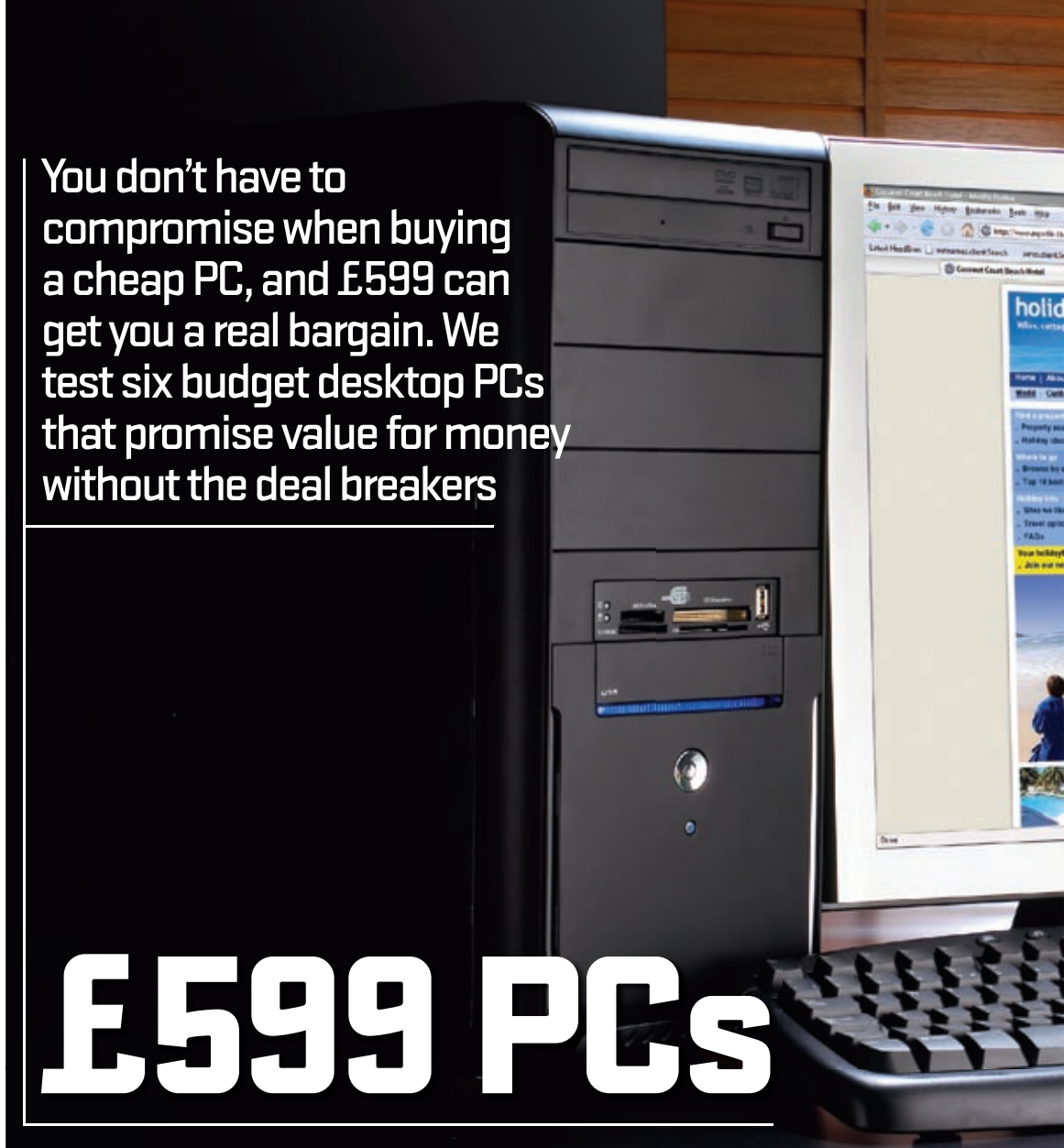
A 3D graphics card has other uses. The Nvidia GeForce cards used in these PCs are all capable of assisting with the playback of high-definition video files. Vista also uses a 3D graphics card to display its new Aero desktop, and all the PCs here are up to this task.

STORE CREDIT

Windows Vista Home Premium is installed on every PC in this group, and takes up around 10GB of hard disk space. Thankfully, even the smallest hard disks in the group have a capacity of 250GB, so there's loads of room left for documents, photos, music and video files. Gladiator's Kronos has an enormous 500GB hard disk, so it's ideal if you want to store loads of video footage.

Some of the PCs have memory card readers, making it easy for digital camera users to copy images on to the hard disk. Not all readers are compatible with all memory cards, though, so check the table on page 85 to see which are suitable for your camera.

One advantage of buying a desktop PC is that you can always upgrade it later if you need more computing power. All the motherboards here use the latest processor sockets, so you could easily fit a new





processor. Similarly, the PCI-Express standard means it should be easy to add a faster 3D card if you need one. Eclipse's Fusion has a second PCI Express x16 slot and supports the SLI system, so you can add a second identical Nvidia graphics card to double your gaming power.

One of the easiest, most effective upgrades is to add more memory. Mesh's Elite Duo already has 2GB of RAM, and of the others only the Evesham Solar Express will be tricky to upgrade. It has no spare memory slots, so you'll need to discard the existing memory to add more.

A VIEW WITH MORE ROOM

The peripherals that come with your PC are just as important as the components, and none more so than the monitor. Many of the monitors here struggled in our demanding greyscale and colour wheel tests, so they're not suitable for colour-sensitive work such as desktop publishing. However, they're all suitable for working on office documents, surfing the web or gaming.

There are two types of monitor here, both measuring 19in diagonally. The widescreen monitors have an aspect ratio of 16:10 and a native resolution of 1,440x900 pixels. The other monitors have a squarer 5:4 aspect ratio and a native resolution of 1,280x1024 pixels. Both types have roughly the same total resolution, so you have a similarly sized desktop. The shape of the widescreen monitors makes them better-

suited to watching DVDs or video files, while the squarer monitors are better for working on office documents or reading long webpages.

No matter how good your display is, you can't experience movies and games at their best without sound. Unfortunately, this is one area in which several PCs here disappointed us. Many rely on speakers built into the display rather than including a separate set. These are suitable only for Windows sounds, so you will need to buy a separate set of speakers (see *Labs*, page 115) to

This month

ECLIPSE Fusion SLI i6300-VSTA

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EVESHAM Solar Express

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GLADIATOR Kronos CSX23800

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PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 2-4408 Starter PC

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RL SUPPLIES Modula 4047CS

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enjoy music or games. The Evesham, PC Nextday and RL Supplies PCs all include separate speaker sets, which are far better.

SAFETY LAST

All the PCs here come with a warranty that lasts at least one year, so any hardware problems that become apparent in that time will be fixed. For a longer period, RL Supplies and Gladiator include warranties that last for two years, and Evesham and Mesh include three-year warranties.

Turn on, tune in Adding a TV tuner

All the PCs in this test come with Windows Vista Home Premium installed. This includes Windows Media Center, which provides an excellent and free electronic programme guide. By adding a TV tuner card, you can use your PC as a personal video recorder.

When choosing a TV tuner, make sure it has Vista-compatible Broadcast Driver Architecture (BDA) drivers. TV tuner cards without BDA drivers might work with their own software, but they won't work with Windows Media Center.

To fit a PCI TV tuner, shut down your PC and open the case. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to fit the card; this is usually as

simple as plugging it into a spare PCI slot. Restart your PC. If Windows doesn't automatically find the tuner, right-click My Computer, select Properties, choose Device Manager and locate the card under Other Devices. It will usually be labelled Multimedia Controller. Right-click it, then select Update Driver Software.

Choose Browse My Computer and find the BDA driver you downloaded. Once the driver is installed, click on the Start button, choose Windows Media Center and follow the setup wizard to scan for channels. You won't need to install any other software that comes with your card.



ECLIPSE Fusion SLI i6300-VSTA

★★★★★

£599 inc VAT and delivery



You can't expect a perfect gaming PC for £600, but the Fusion SLI comes close. It performed surprisingly well in our 3D benchmarks.

FEATURES

The Fusion's case looks bland except for a bright blue illuminated strip across the front. It's spacious inside, with plenty of room for upgrades. The motherboard has two PCI Express x16 slots and supports SLI, so you could add a second graphics card to increase its 3D performance further.

A decent power supply unit (PSU) is essential for future upgrades. The Fusion comes with an impressive 450W PSU, which is sufficient to power two graphics cards.

The motherboard has optical and coaxial S/PDIF outputs, so you can connect it to a surround-sound amplifier or speakers. The only speakers are those built into the monitor. They won't suffice for gaming or listening to music.

Most new games have widescreen modes, so it's a pity Eclipse didn't include a widescreen monitor. The AMW model included looks ugly, but it doesn't have image-quality problems.

PERFORMANCE

The Fusion's Nvidia GeForce 7900GS is a very powerful graphics card for a budget PC. It scored 36.2fps in our tough new Prey test and can run the latest games smoothly even at high detail levels.

With an Intel Core 2 Duo E6300 processor inside, the Fusion scored a respectable 147 overall in our *Shopper* benchmarks. It'll speed through everyday tasks with ease and it won't shirk from tricky jobs such as video encoding.

VERDICT

With its fast graphics card and hassle-free upgrade options, the Fusion is the best PC here for playing games. Its monitor looks old-fashioned, but it produces a good image. It's not as powerful as the PC Nextday PC, but this is a price worth paying for a decent display.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Very fast in 3D
- ✓ Easy to upgrade with SLI
- ✗ No separate speakers

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E6300, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB Xpertvision GeForce 7900GS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in LCD
PART CODE None
SUPPLIER Eclipse 08707 456000
DETAILS www.eclipse-computers.com



EVESHAM Solar Express

★★★★

£600 inc VAT and delivery

Like many of the PCs here, the Solar Express includes a widescreen monitor that's suited to watching DVDs or playing the latest games.

FEATURES

The Cibox monitor isn't particularly pretty and has a strange floral design to the right of the screen. On the rear are three buttons that line up with corresponding menu prompts on the display. This makes adjusting the settings easy. It has plenty of contrast, but our white-screen test showed up a bluish tint. Our more technically demanding greyscale transition and colour wheel tests looked poor, with heavy speckling and banding evident.

The Solar Express includes a pair of proper speakers rather than those built into the monitor. Unfortunately, the volume dial jumps from very quiet to very loud and distorted. You can get a reasonable level with some fiddling, but they still sound trebly and lack bass.

There are problem areas inside the PC, too. It has just two slots for memory modules and both are already full. This means you'll have to discard the current memory should you wish to upgrade. There's no memory card reader, but Evesham provides a three-year warranty.

PERFORMANCE

The Solar Express uses an Intel Core 2 Duo E4300 processor rather than the more common E6300. The E4300 has a slower frontside bus and so scored a slightly slower 142 overall in our benchmarks. It's one of the slower computers in this review, but it's still fast enough to tackle tricky applications.

The GeForce 7600GS graphics card ran our new Prey benchmark at 16fps. It can run the latest games, but you'll need to reduce detail settings. With anti-aliasing disabled, it ran Call of Duty 2 at a playable 26.7fps.

VERDICT

If you want a long warranty for your new PC, this is a good choice. If not, you can get a better display and more for your money elsewhere in the group.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Three-year warranty
- ✗ Display has poor image quality
- ✗ Upgrading memory will be expensive

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E4300, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB Xpertvision GeForce 7600GS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE None
SUPPLIER Evesham 08701 609500
DETAILS www.evesham.com



GLADIATOR Kronos CSX23800

★★★★★

£600 inc VAT and delivery

Gladiator's Kronos CSX23800 is the only PC here that uses an AMD processor, and its huge hard disk is impressive.

FEATURES

Gladiator has fitted a whopping 500GB hard disk in the Kronos. You'll have to hoard a massive media library of music, photos and video in order to fill it up. It's big enough to store over 150 hours of digital TV programmes should you add a TV tuner.

There's no memory card reader, but the Antec chassis looks good and has sufficient space inside for upgrades. A large case fan is fitted as standard. It has a three-speed control switch to reduce unnecessary noise and this helps make the Kronos the quietest PC here.

Gladiator has included a stylish Asus monitor with this PC. It's not particularly bright, but it has plenty of contrast and it performed acceptably in our colour and greyscale tests. The only speakers supplied are built into the monitor, so you'll need to buy a separate set to enjoy movies or music fully. Gladiator covers the Kronos with a two-year warranty.

PERFORMANCE

The Kronos uses a 2.0GHz AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+ processor. It couldn't quite keep up with the other computers in the group and finished last with an overall score of 133. This is still fairly fast, so you'll be able to take on most computing tasks, but PC Nextday's and Mesh's computers chew through tricky jobs at a noticeably higher speed.

Like Evesham's Solar, the Kronos uses an Nvidia GeForce 7600GS graphics card. It will play the latest games, but you'll have to reduce the detail settings.

VERDICT

With a decent widescreen monitor and big hard disk, Gladiator's Kronos is a good choice if you want to hoard video files. It's not particularly quick, though, so for most people there are better buys in the group.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Good-quality widescreen display
- ✓ Enormous hard disk
- ✗ Slightly slow in Windows applications

DESKTOP PC AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+, 1GB RAM, 500GB hard disk, 256MB Albatron GeForce 7600GS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE CSX23800
SUPPLIER Gladiator 08456 444666
DETAILS www.gladiatorcomputers.com



MESH Elite Duo CSX

★★★★

£599 inc VAT and delivery

Windows Vista needs more memory to run well than Windows XP does. The other PCs here have a decent 1GB of memory, but Mesh has included twice as much.

FEATURES

Mesh's compact case looks more stylish than the others here. There's a memory card reader on its front and a spacious 320GB hard disk inside. The motherboard has only two memory slots, but with 2GB fitted as standard you're unlikely to need to add more for some time.

The black finish on the monitor matches the case. It's not very bright, though, and our greyscale test showed up some banding and a greenish tint. Text looks crisp, however, and our HD video test looked fine.

The only speakers supplied are built into the monitor. They sound pitiful, so you'll need to invest in a better pair to enjoy music or video files properly. A decent cordless Logitech keyboard and mouse set is included. Mesh has also included an excellent three-year warranty with this PC, with the first year's service onsite.

PERFORMANCE

The Elite Duo CSX uses the same Intel Core 2 Duo processor as Eclipse's and RL Supplies' computers, but has twice as much memory. Its memory is of a slightly slower type, but having 2GB is a significant advantage, so the Elite performed better in our image-manipulation and multitasking tests. Its score of 156 overall is impressive and only a little slower than the leading PC Nextday Zoostorm.

Its 3D performance is far less impressive. The Nvidia GeForce 7300GS graphics card fitted inside is the weakest here and produced less than 3fps in our Prey benchmark. To play recent games, you'll have to lower the resolution and drop detail levels to a minimum.

VERDICT

Mesh's Elite Duo is fast in applications and has a great warranty, but its 3D performance is particularly poor. If you want a long warranty, we recommend Evesham's Solar Express.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Three-year warranty; 2GB of memory
- ✗ Display suffers from banding
- ✗ Slow in 3D

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E6300, 2GB RAM, 320GB hard disk, 256MB Xpervision GeForce 7300GS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE None
SUPPLIER Mesh 08447 360440
DETAILS www.meshcomputers.com



PC NEXTDAY Zoostorm 2-4408 Starter PC

★★★★★

£599 inc VAT and delivery

This is the fastest PC here, and it runs 3D games well. Its monitor isn't perfect, but it includes a set of speakers.

FEATURES

We've seen the Zoostorm's case many times. It's a pain to get into, with no single side door, but inside there's plenty of space for upgrades. The motherboard has a second PCI Express slot, so you can add a second graphics card later, but you might need to upgrade the 300W power supply unit if you do. A memory card reader is fitted, along with a 250GB hard disk.

The AOC monitor has a traditional shape, so it looks a little old-fashioned compared to the widescreen displays included with many PCs here. It struggled in our demanding monitor tests and it's not suitable for photo editing, but it will suffice for most other uses.

The keyboard has a curved shape that's meant to be more comfortable for typing, but it makes the left Shift key far too small. Unusually, PC Nextday has included a good set of stereo speakers. They sound well balanced and produce a satisfying amount of bass.

PERFORMANCE

With a 2GHz Intel Core 2 Duo E4400 processor inside, this is the fastest PC in the group. Mesh's Elite Duo came close thanks to its 2GB of memory, but adding more memory to this PC will make it faster still.

The Nvidia GeForce 7600GT graphics card is the second quickest in the group. It will run any new game smoothly, though you may have to sacrifice some detail. We found that simply reducing the level of anti-aliasing to 2x was sufficient to make modern games run well.

VERDICT

With both a fast processor and graphics card, the Zoostorm 2-4408 is impressively powerful. Its display isn't great, though. If you're not bothered about getting a widescreen monitor, Eclipse's Fusion is a better buy.

SUMMARY

- ✓ Very powerful in Windows
- ✓ Powerful in 3D
- ✗ Monitor image quality imperfect

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E4400, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB Inno3D GF 7600GT, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in LCD
PART CODE 2-4408
SUPPLIER sales@pcnextday.co.uk
DETAILS www.pcnextday.co.uk



RL SUPPLIES Modula 4047CS

★★★★★

£600 inc VAT and delivery

This well-equipped PC is the first computer we've reviewed from RL Supplies. It has a decent widescreen monitor, but it's not particularly powerful.

FEATURES

The Modula's Antec chassis is identical to the one used by Gladiator, but here it's fitted with both a floppy drive and memory card reader. Inside, there's a 250GB hard disk.

The Asus motherboard has all the usual ports plus a coaxial S/PDIF output for surround sound. A set of stereo speakers is supplied. They are capable of respectable levels of volume and bass, but there's an audible gap in the lower mid-range between the satellites and the subwoofer.

The Hanns.G monitor is one of the best here. Its widescreen shape is ideal for enjoying movies, digital TV and games. Our white-screen test looked even and bright, with only a little graininess. Colours were vibrant, but some banding was evident in our greyscale transition test. It's not perfect, but it's better than most here. A two-year warranty is included.

PERFORMANCE

Like Eclipse's and Mesh's PCs, the Modula uses an Intel Core 2 Duo E6300 processor. It's easily fast enough for all but the most demanding tasks. The Modula scored 147 overall in our application benchmarks, placing it in the middle of this group.

This is one of three PCs in the group to use an Nvidia GeForce 7600GS graphics card. It uses a passively cooled version, though, which proved to be slightly slower than the others. It ran our Prey test at 13.8fps, and is capable of playing modern games at reduced levels of detail.

VERDICT

The Modula 4047CS has one of the better widescreen monitors in the group, a two-year warranty and a set of speakers. Its performance is a little average, but if you want a widescreen display, this is the PC to buy.

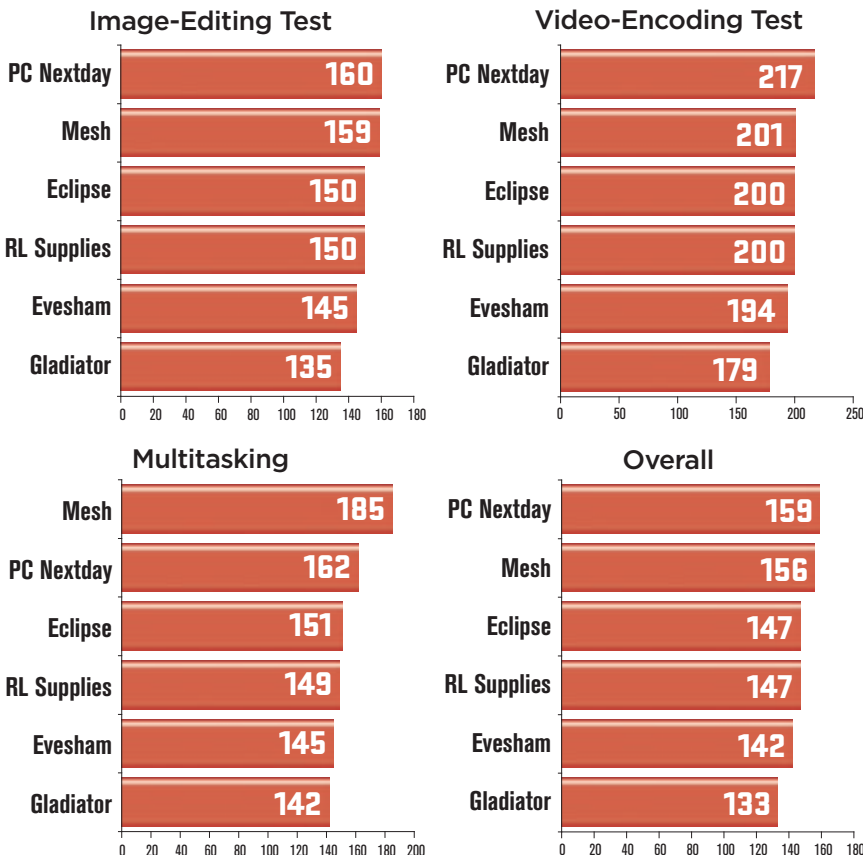
SUMMARY

- ✓ Decent display
- ✓ Two-year warranty
- ✗ Average performance

DESKTOP PC Intel Core 2 Duo E6300, 1GB RAM, 250GB hard disk, 256MB XFX GeForce 7600GS, DVD+/-RW +/-DL, 19in widescreen LCD
PART CODE None
SUPPLIER RL Supplies 01923 896996
DETAILS www.rlsupplies.co.uk

BENCHMARKS

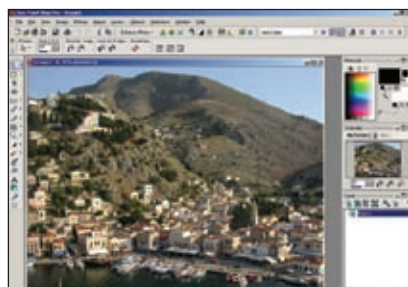
2D Performance Shopper Application Tests



Computer Shopper's 2D benchmarks have been designed to show how PCs stand up to the toughest tasks Windows can throw at them. Today's PCs have no problem running office applications such as Word and Excel, so we have chosen to focus our tests on areas where you could experience difficulties.

Encoding a short video to MPEG2 format is a processor-intensive task that anyone transferring home videos to DVD will have to tackle. Our image-editing test simulates a session of photo enhancement using Paint Shop Pro X. In our third test, a set of audio files is ripped to MP3 format.

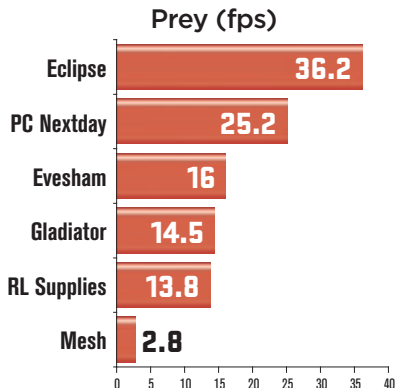
Finally, we have a multitasking test designed to test the benefits of HyperThreaded and dual-core processors. This test compresses a DVD at the same time as running our



SETTINGS We run our application tests at 1,280x1,024 resolution and in 32-bit colour
WEB www.computershopper.co.uk

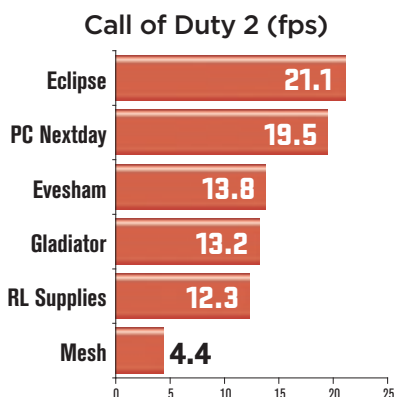
image-editing test. Figures are relative to a reference Evesham Athlon 64 3500+, which scores 100 in all tests.

3D Performance Games



SETTINGS 1,280x1,024 resolution, high shader detail, 4x AA
WEB www.prey.com

Our Prey benchmark tests whether a PC has the power needed to play cutting-edge 3D games. A good score here indicates that a PC should cope with graphically intense 3D games.



SETTINGS 1,280x1,024 resolution, 32-bit colour, default settings
WEB www.futuremark.com

Call of Duty 2 uses DirectX and is one of the most demanding games available. With a wide range of effects and frenetic action, it tests every aspect of graphics performance.

Labs verdict Budget PCs

It's not unusual for Shopper's Labs tests to be hotly contested, with several good PCs each making a case for the Best Buy award. However, this Labs was a particularly close call as none of the computers here is poor, and several are very good indeed.

If you want a computer to store and watch TV or video files, we recommend Gladiator's Kronos. It has an enormous hard disk that can store hours and hours of video, and a decent widescreen display on which to watch it. You will need to add some speakers,

though. If you want a widescreen display but you don't want to hoard video files, choose RL Supplies' Modula. It has a decent widescreen display and a two-year warranty. If you want the most power in Windows applications, PC Nextday's 2-4408 Starter PC is a good choice. It has the most powerful processor in this test and can easily chew through demanding applications.

The best in the group, though, is Eclipse's Fusion SLI. It performs well in Windows but excels in 3D, where it has the power to take on



ECLIPSE
Fusion
SLI i6300-VSTA

★★★★★



the latest and most demanding games. Its display may have a slightly dowdy design, but it produces a good picture and the computer can easily be upgraded with a second graphics card in future. It's great value and our Best Buy.



MANUFACTURER	ECLIPSE	EVESHAM	GLADIATOR	MESH	PC NEXTDAY	RL SUPPLIES
Model name	Fusion SLI i6300-VSTA	Solar Express	Kronos CSX23800	Elite Duo CSX	Zoostorm 2-4408 Starter PC	Modula 4047CS
Rating	★★★★	★★★	★★★★	★★★	★★★★★	★★★★
Processor	Intel Core 2 Duo E6300	Intel Core 2 Duo E4300	AMD Athlon 64 X2 3800+	Intel Core 2 Duo E6300	Intel Core 2 Duo E4400	Intel Core 2 Duo E6300
Processor speed	1.86GHz	1.8GHz	2GHz	1.86GHz	2GHz	1.86GHz
Processor socket	LGA775	LGA775	Socket AM2	LGA775	LGA775	LGA775
Level 1 cache	128KB	128KB	2x 128KB	128KB	128KB	128KB
Level 2 cache	2,048KB	2,048KB	2x 512KB	2,048KB	2,048KB	2,048KB
Memory installed	1GB	1GB	1GB	2GB	1GB	1GB
Memory type	PC2-5300	PC2-5300	PC2-5300	PC2-4300	PC2-5300	PC2-5300
Maximum memory	16GB	4GB	4GB	4GB	8GB	2GB
Motherboard standard	ECS nForce 570 SLIT-A	Foxconn 946GZ7MA-8KRS2H	MSI K9N Neo	Asus P5B TMX/S	ECS P965T-A	Asus P5PL2-E
Motherboard chipset	Nvidia nForce 570 SLI	Intel 946GZ	Nvidia nForce 550	Intel 946GZ	Intel P965	Intel 945 + ICH7
Memory bus speed	333MHz	333MHz	333MHz	266MHz	333MHz	266MHz
BIOS	Phoenix	Phoenix	AMI	AMI	Phoenix	AMI
PORTS						
USB2 ports (front/rear)	3/4	2/4	2/4	2/4	2/4	3/4
FireWire ports (front/rear)	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0	0/0
Networking	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000	10/100/1,000
Legacy ports	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel	2x PS/2, serial, parallel
Other ports	None	None	None	None	None	None
INTERNAL EXPANSION						
Case	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower	Midi tower
Case size (HxWxD)	416x178x450mm	371x175x372mm	421x194x415mm	377x177x426mm	438x206x461mm	421x194x415mm
PCI (free)	3 (3)	2 (2)	3 (3)	2 (2)	3 (3)	3 (3)
PCIe x1 (free)	2 (1)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)	2 (1)	2 (1)
PCIe x16 (free)	2 (1)	1 (0)	1 (0)	1 (0)	2 (1)	1 (0)
AGP (free)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Serial ATA (free)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)	4 (3)
Memory (free)	4 (2)	2 (0)	4 (2)	2 (0)	4 (2)	4 (3)
Drive bays 3 1/2in (free)	6 (4)	2 (1)	5 (4)	3 (3)	3 (2)	5 (2)
Drive bays 5 1/4in (free)	4 (3)	2 (1)	3 (2)	2 (1)	3 (2)	3 (1)
HARD DISK						
Model	Maxtor DiamondMax 21 (6A250E0)	Western Digital Caviar SE (WD2500JS)	Hitachi Deskstar 7K500 (HDS725050KLA360)	Seagate Barracuda (ST3320620AS)	Western Digital Caviar SE16 (WD3200KS)	Hitachi Deskstar 7K500 (HDT725025VLA380)
Interface	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300	SATA 300
Capacity	250GB (228GB)	250GB (223GB)	500GB (466GB)	320GB (298GB)	250GB (233GB)	250GB (233GB)
Spin speed	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm	7,200rpm
GRAPHICS						
Technology	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express	PCI Express
Graphics card	256MB Xpertvision GeForce 7900GS	256MB Xpertvision GeForce 7900GS	256MB Albatron GeForce 7600GS	256MB Xpertvision GeForce 7300GS	256MB Inno3D GF 7600GT	256MB XFX GeForce 7600GS
Graphics chipset	Nvidia GeForce 7900GS	Nvidia GeForce 7600GS	Nvidia GeForce 7600GS	Nvidia GeForce 7300GS	Nvidia GeForce 7600GT	Nvidia GeForce 7600GS
Graphics/video ports	2x DVI, S-video, component, composite	2x DVI, S-video, component, composite	D-sub, DVI, S-video, component, composite	D-sub, DVI, S-video, component, composite	2x DVI, S-video, component, composite	2x DVI, S-video, component, composite
SOUND						
Sound card	RealTek HD	RealTek HD	RealTek HD	RealTek HD	RealTek HD	SoundMax HD
Sound card outputs	7.1 line out, coaxial/optical S/PDIF out	7.1 line out	7.1 line out	7.1 line out	7.1 line out	5.1 line out, coaxial S/PDIF out
Speakers	In display	Creative Inspire 265 2.0	In display	In display	Zoostorm 2.1	Trust SP-3450Z 2.1
REMOVABLE DRIVES						
Floppy drive 3 1/2in	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
Memory card reader	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive	None	None	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive, xD	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive, xD	CompactFlash, Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Memory Stick, Smart Media, MicroDrive
Optical drive	NEC ND-5170A (18X DVD+R, 18X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 8X DVD-R DL, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony AW-G170A (18X DVD+R, 18X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 8X DVD-R DL, 12X DVD-RAM, 40X CD-R, 40X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD-ROM)	TSST SN-S082D (18X DVD+R, 18X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 8X DVD-R DL, 12X DVD-RAM, 48X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD-ROM)	Sony AW-G170A (18X DVD+R, 18X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 8X DVD-R DL, 12X DVD-RAM, 40X CD-R, 40X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD-ROM)	Aopen DSW1812P (18X DVD+R, 18X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 8X DVD-R DL, 12X DVD-RAM, 40X CD-R, 40X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD-ROM)	Asus DRW 1608P3S (16X DVD+R, 16X DVD-R, 8X DVD+RW, 6X DVD-RW, 8X DVD+R DL, 8X DVD-R DL, 5X DVD-RAM, 40X CD-R, 32X CD-RW, 16X DVD, 48X CD-ROM)
DISPLAY						
Size and technology	19in LCD	19in widescreen LCD	19in widescreen LCD	19in widescreen LCD	19in LCD	19in widescreen LCD
Model	AMW X1900DS	Cibox C1905	Asus VW1925	Edge 10 W190	AOC 197VK	Hanns.G HW191D
Native resolution	1,280x1,024	1,440x900	1,440x900	1,440x900	1,280x1,024	1,440x900
Response time	8ms	5ms	5ms	5ms	8ms	5ms
Inputs	DVI, D-sub, line in	D-sub	D-sub, line in	D-sub, line in	DVI, D-sub, line in	DVI, D-sub
OTHER HARDWARE						
Modem	No	No	No	No	No	No
Keyboard	Microsoft Basic Keyboard 1.0A	Logitech Deluxe 650 Cordless	Logitech Deluxe 250 Keyboard	Logitech Deluxe 650 Cordless	Microsoft Comfort Curve Keyboard 2000 1.0	Microsoft Wired Keyboard 500 1.0
Mouse	Microsoft Basic Optical Mouse 1.0A	Logitech Cordless Optical Mouse	Logitech RX1000 Mouse	Logitech Cordless Optical Mouse	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A	Microsoft Wheel Mouse Optical 1.1A
Extras	None	None	None	None	None	None
SOFTWARE						
Software included	None	Microsoft Works 8.5, Roxio Easy Media Creator Basic DVD 9, BullGuard Antivirus 7	CyberLink PowerDVD 6, Ahead Nero 7	CyberLink PowerDVD 5, Power2Go 4, PowerProducer 3, PowerDirector 3, PowerBackup1, MediaShow SE, PowerCinema 4	Ahead Nero 7	None
Operating system	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium	Windows Vista Home Premium
Operating system restore option	Windows disc	Restore partition, restore disc	Windows disc	Windows disc	Restore partition	Windows disc
BUYING INFORMATION						
Parts and labour warranty	One year RTB	One year onsite, two years RTB	One year onsite, one year RTB	One year onsite, two years RTB	One year RTB	Two years collect and return
Technical support times	9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm Sat	10am-5pm Mon-Fri	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	9am-5.30pm Mon-Fri	10am-4pm Mon-Fri
Company founded	1993	1983	1999	1987	1993	1997
Technical support staff	7	82	6	45	14	4
Employees	30	398	15	275	70	17
Price including delivery and VAT	£599	£600	£600	£599	£599	£600
Price including delivery excluding VAT	£510	£511	£511	£510	£510	£511
Supplier	Eclipse 08707 456000	Evesham 08701 609500	Gladiator 08456 444666	Mesh 08447 360440	sales@pcnextday.co.uk	RL Supplies 01923 896996
Details	www.eclipse-computers.com	www.evesham.com	www.gladiatorcomputers.com	www.meshcomputers.com	www.pcnextday.co.uk	www.rlsupplies.co.uk